

Translated by
Defence Language Branch

THE VIEW OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION BUREAU OF
THE FOREIGN OFFICE CONCERNING THE ABANDONMENT
OF COOPERATION WITH EVERY ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE
OF NATIONS (November 2, 1938 (Showa 13))

Since the China Incident broke out last year and China took up matters concerning it with the League of Nations on September 12th, the Assembly and the Council, recognizing the Empire's actions towards China as a violation of the Nine-Power Treaty and the 'Anti-War Pact,' promised moral assistance to China and advised the Members of the League to support China individually. Several resolutions were adopted also denouncing the Empire saying that the Japanese forces bombed unfortified cities, or used poison gas. Because of this or otherwise the Council in this autumn session, complying with China's demand to apply Article 17 of the Covenant to the China Incident, came to adopt finally, according to Paragraph 3 of the same Article on September 30th, the report that each Member of the League might take up separately the sanction stipulated in Article 16 of the Covenant against the Empire.

Now, on taking a view of recent activities of the League, it is clear that it has gone astray from the ideals which it held in the days of its foundation, and has become a hot-bed for behind-the-scene manoeuvrings of a few Powers. I cannot help recognizing it really as not only undue interference but also a malicious intrigue against the Empire that the League, blind to its

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lack of power, has dared to apply the provisions, including the Sanction against a Non-Member of the League, of the Empire for the first time since the foundation of the League. In view of the substance of the League and its attitude toward Japan as mentioned above, the Government decided on a policy of terminating existing cooperative relations with every organ of the League and after having received Imperial assent, had Chief of the Japanese Secretariate at the International Conference AMOU communicate to that effect under the date of the 2nd, to the Secretary-General of the League.

On the occasion when the Empire notified the League of her secession, an Imperial Rescript was graciously issued to indicate whither the Empire should go. Since then, the Government, in obedience to Imperial wishes, has participated in every work of the League in connection with peace and humanity even after the Empire seceded from the League. Unfortunately, as a result of the recent decision of the League, however, the Empire has had to abandon such cooperation from now on. However, this does not mean more than the abandonment of our participation in international matters which are being carried on through the organs of the League. Therefore the sacred purport of the Rescript above referred to still remains shining and the Imperial Government, in obedience to it, will not change in further cooperation with all sorts of projects concerning peace and will endeavor as before to participate and to cooperate in international matters which aim at promoting peace and the welfare of mankind.

The Note Concerning the Abandonment of Cooperation with Every Organ of the League and the Results of the Abandonment of Cooperation.

"I have the honor to inform you under the instructions of the Imperial Government that the Empire of Japan after reflecting upon the circumstances, arising from the situation which has been recently brought about between the Empire and the League of Nations as the result of September 30th when the Council of the League adopted the report that the provision of Article 16 might be applied to the Empire according to Paragraph 3 of Article 17 of the Covenant, has decided to abandon her cooperation with the various organs of the League which had been continued even after the withdrawal from the League by the Empire."

Consequently, among the various commissions of the League, the representatives appointed by the Government who had been attending the Permanent Commission on the Administration of Mandates, the Opium Inquiry Commission and the Social Problems Inquiry Commission and our committeemen or associate committeemen who have cooperated in individual capacities with the Permanent Commission on the Administration of Mandates, the Art and Science Cooperation Commission, the Control Opium Commission, the Economic Commission, and the Health Commission will be dismissed in the case of the former and in the case of the ^{latter} resignations will be soon. And cooperation with the Oriental Epidemic Information Bureau, the labor organizations and the Permanent International Court of Justice will also probably be terminated.

These measures of course, have nothing to do with the administration of

DEF. DOC. #1186

the mandates and the present arrangements will be continued, but the Government will not be able to have our representatives participate in the work of the Permanent ^{Commission} in the Administration of Mandates.

CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Archives Section of the Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 3 pages and entitled "The Talk of the Chief of Information Bureau of the Foreign Office Concerning the Abandonment of cooperation with Every Organ of the League of Nations." (November 2, 1938) is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (the Foreign Office).

certified at Tokyo,

on this 8th day of April, 1947

(signed) HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place,

on this same date

Witness: (signed) URABE, Matsumi (seal)

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Yukio, KAWAKOTO, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Yukio, KAWAKOTO

Tokyo, Japan

Date 22 April, 1947

5